[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai].

REGULATIONS ASSENTED TO BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHA RAJA.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to the Legislative Council*): I beg to announce that the following Regulations have received the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja on the 10th July, 1924:—

1. The Revenue Recovery Regulation Amendment Regulation, II of 1099.

2. The Travancore Government Securities Regulation, III of 1099.

3. The Travancore High Court Regulation, IV of 1099.

4. The Revenue Summons Regulation Amendment Regulation, V of 1099.

5. The Reformatory Schools Regulation VI of 1099.

6. The Travancore Majority Regulation, VII of 1099.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE FLOODS.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, before proceeding to the next item on the agenda of to-day's work, I rise to make a request to Government and offer a few observations in support of the same. In view of the most distressing and disheartening information that has been received here with respect to the havoc already played and even now being played by floods in the central and northern parts of Travancore, I am making this request to Government and offering these observations in support thereof.

PRESIDENT: Are you making a request to Government or are you making a motion before the House?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am making a motion before the House. It will appear from reports that have been received that the tracts and basins drained by a number of rivers, namely, the Kallada river, the Kulakkada river, the Pamba river, the Minachil river and the Periyar, have been invaded by the inrush of water and the inhabitants of these regions have been rendered homeless. Dead bodies, houses and much movable property are said to be afloat and people have been reduced to the most miserable condition. Death appears to be at grips with life and the only option left to the surviving population in these regions is to perish either by submersion immediately under water or by the comparatively gradual process of starvation. The precarious survival enjoyed by the remaining population in these regions is a matter of very grave concern and it is very difficult to contemplate the situation with anything like composure. Communications have been cut off; roads have been washed off and bridges broken down by the unprecedented and unparalleled floods experienced

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in these parts of Travancore. I understand that not only Central and North Travancore have been affected but that even South Travancore stands the risk of being so affected on a similar scale. Such being the case, we see that the rank and file of the non-official side here has been extremely thinned, and many of the members have, we are told, wired to the President stating their inability to attend this meeting of the Council. The measures that we have to consider, as per the programme, are the amendment of the Nayar Regulation and the annual budget. It is extremely unseemly that the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill, a non-official measure, regarding which—though at the inception Government thought that they had nothing to do, as was gatherable from the utterances of Mr. Subba Aiyar himself, but about which he now says that he is not in a position to disclose what has transpired between the official members and himself, rather between the official members and the Government—should be discussed in the absence of many non-official members who may be seriously interested in the enactment of the measure. It appears to me not quite desirable that we should discuss and pass such a measure in the absence of most of the non-official members.

The other question that has to be considered is equally important—I mean the voting on the annual budget. To my mind, Sir, it appears to be extremely difficult to vote upon the budget for the next year owing to a variety of reasons. First of all, I would point out that it is difficult to estimate the income for the ensuing year in view of what has already transpired in the most productive parts of the State. To what extent remissions will have to be made by Government and to what extent concessions will have to be allowed by Government are questions which it is rather difficult for us to estimate. The nature of the work to be undertaken by the State towards reconstruction in order to bring about the prior situation, is itself a large question. We are practically attempting to pass the budget in ignorance of what has already taken place. In view of these facts, I would press—

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to a provision in the Regulation which makes it absolutely necessary that the budget meeting should be held in Karkatakam and that the voting of the budget should be completed before the end of Karkatakam?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I take that into consideration, certainly.

Sir, with respect to the trouble that we are now facing, I would still further point out that many a member on the official benches will have to be deputed by the Government to proceed to the scene of disaster and to render all possible help to the suffering popoulation. For example, I would point out that in view of what has already happened in the low-lying tracts of Kuttanad, the major portion of which I have the honour and at the same time the misfortune to represent in this Council, and in view of the sundry violation of law and order that is likely to follow the unforeseen accidents in these regions, the presence and direction of an officer like the Commissioner of Police cannot be spared. Again, in the matter of repairing breaches and restoring communications

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

and the homesteads to their normal conditions, the other departmental heads also, will have to be sent out by the Government and authorised to do the needful immediately. No doubt, the passing of the budget is an important item; but in view of what has transpired, it is absolutely insignificant side by side with the very precarious condition to which people have been reduced by the inundation aforesaid.

In view of these facts, I would request the President to take into consideration the present floods as a matter of urgent importance and of a serious nature; and to move the Government, on behalf of the Council, that such of the officers as may be spared be deputed to proceed to the scene of disaster and render all possible assistance to the suffering population. Therefore I beg to move:—

"In view of the fact that owing to the heavy floods in different parts of Travancore, several members of the Council have not been able to attend the Council to-day and as very important matters such as the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill and the State budget will be taken up for discussion at the meeting, this meeting be adjourned for a week, and three days be allotted for non-official business at the end of the session after the voting of the demands for grants."

PRESIDENT: Will you kindly read it again?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): "In view of the fact that owing to the heavy floods in different parts of Travancore several members of the Council have not been able to attend the Council to-day and as very important measures such as the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill and the State budget will be taken up for discussion at the meeting, this meeting be adjourned for a week, and three days be allotted for non-official business at the end of the session after the voting of the demands for grants."

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to second the motion Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has given us a vivid and a very sad picture of the devastation in all parts of the country around us. We are well placed. Being in an elevated place, we do not feel the pangs of poverty nor the ravages of the flood. The empty chairs here speak their own tale, and the full chairs on the opposite side speak their own tale. (*Laughter.*) How are we to get on with a piece of social legislation, when the Government members are mustered strong and our side so weak? How is it to be carried through? The chief member, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar, has to oppose the clause that has just now to be discussed, and he is absent. It is a very important consideration that has to be given to this motion. I just now received a telegram from Mr. Naoroji in Bombay.

"No letter, no telegrams from Alleppey. Proceeding impossible, lines being broken. Wire children's condition at Alleppey."

So, there is no communication between Alleppey and the other side, evidently. We are more or less having floods similar to that at the

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time of Noah. Because, as I said, we are in an elevated place we are free from it. There is a big book, the budget, staring us in the face. This has been prepared under normal conditions; but the whole aspect of the country is changed. Thousands and lakhs of rupees will have to be spent on repairs of bridges and roads, culverts, etc., and more on relief work. The whole of this budget is not worth the paper on which it is printed, as matters stand just now. The aspect of the whole situation has changed and it is a very serious matter how we are going to pass this grant or the other grant before we know the ravages that have been committed by the flood.

Just now I got a circular, a beautiful circular, sent by the Chief Secretary to Government. I congratulate Government for taking prompt steps in the matter asking us to begin relief work along with all the heads of departments and to render help in this hour of desolation, in this hour of need. Are we to sit here and legislate when people are dying, when people are starving on account of the terrible havoc caused in the country by the flood? It will be like Nero fiddling while Rome is burning. (*Laughter.*) Therefore I strongly support Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's motion that the House be adjourned for some future time till normal conditions are restored.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I also support the motion. The event is an extraordinary one and the calamity is such that we shall not be justified in proceeding with the regular work of this Council without having a correct idea of the devastation caused by the floods. Floods, Sir, have been objects of terror in other parts of India; but in Travancore the people, in normal circumstances, welcome floods with as much enthusiasm as the people in Egypt welcome the rise of the Nile. But this year it has been a very grave affair and we hear gruesome details and we see horrible pictures of the disaster and the suffering which it has caused to the population of this State. Sitting here as we do in an elevated town with all the conveniences of a capital, we are not likely, Sir, to be able to realise the great sufferings of the poor people who are taken away by the elements when they were in the cosy atmosphere of their sleeping apartments. We should try to find out how much suffering there is, what are the localities that have been chiefly affected, what is the kind of relief measures that is required and what is the amount of money that has to be legitimately spent upon this most legitimate work of relieving distress. It has been said that the Nayar Regulation, which certainly is an important piece of legislation, is before the House and that we should have the presence of all the non-official members. It has also been said that, this being the budget session, we shall not have been justified in discussing the budget unless we get the details. But to my mind, Sir, there appears a third reason, and I would even call it, a stronger reason, because it is only by finding out the actual conditions that we shall be able to vote any money for the relief or for doing certain things in that direction. But now all the required data are not before the House. Therefore, the officers of Government and the heads of departments ought to travel; they must travel east and west and south and north, and try to form correct conclusions as to the amount of

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

expenditure necessary before any proposal is made to this Council. There is absolutely no use, Sir, in sanctioning a particular sum once for all ten, twenty or fifty thousand. If the distress is so great and the suffering so intense, we shall have to spend five lakhs of rupees or even ten lakhs. I do not think, Sir, that the work of Government cannot be suspended even for a while. At least certain departments, for example, the Development Departments—the Departments of Agriculture and Industries—may afford to wait for some time, because research work takes a very long time and has a long history. One year will not affect the result. And why do we want all these results of research? It is to make the people happy. All the agricultural experiments will make the people happy only if they have anything to eat and only when they do not require any relief from floods. Now if the officers are good enough to go about the whole country, not one officer or two, not the revenue or the police officer alone, but all the heads of departments, if they will only move about with enthusiasm in doing this legitimate work with a full feeling of their high sense of responsibility, I am sure, that the Government will be able to do very much indeed towards the alleviation of distress. I may mention, Sir, that the great work of the administration is to help the agriculturists. I remember, some of the greatest administrators of India, Sir Richard Temple, and Sir William Hunter, built their reputation by attending to relief work both in floods and in famine. I happened to read in the former's autobiography that he was living in a steam boat for weeks and months together for the sake of such relief work in times of distress. That is the ideal which the good Travancore officer has to place before him. (*Mr. A. Hoogewerf: Hear, hear.*) I do not think, Sir, that there is anything more to be mentioned in this connection, because all of us realise the difficulty of the situation. Government—I am glad I have been reminded by my friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai—have been doing what they could in the matter. But I request the House to place before the Government their wish that they may be disposed to make the relief of distress the first charge on the exchequer. With these words I strongly support the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, in supporting this motion for the adjournment of this meeting for a week, I wish to draw your attention to one or two facts. It has been observed that, under the Legislative Council Regulation, the budget has to be presented to the House before the beginning of the year for which it has been framed. The motion before the House, I should consider, asks only for an adjournment for a week. That being so, it will be possible for the House to discuss and also to pass the budget before the beginning of the year for which it has been prepared.

One other fact that I wish to draw your attention to is that it was with deep regret that, when the Council was prorogued last time, we had to adjourn the discussion of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill without being able to close it during that session itself. With your generosity, Sir, we have been able to get three days allotted for non-official business during this budget session itself. Unfortunately, for

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reasons beyond the control of all of us, the meeting of the Council has to be adjourned at least for a week and it is the non-official business, practically, that has to suffer in consequence. I wish that the President will take due note of that fact and see that, as was originally his own idea, the three days allotted for non-official business are allotted at the end of this session itself after the budget discussion is over. With these observations, I would strongly support the motion of Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai to adjourn this meeting for a week.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I too join my friends in supporting the motion made by Mr. Narayana Pillai. It is impossible for us now to estimate the havoc caused by the floods in the country. Within the memory of the oldest man living, the country has not experienced such a visitation. I had the opportunity to see some places and also to hear reports from others regarding the havoc caused by the floods. So far as the people of Kallada are concerned their condition is most distressful. Almost all houses on either side of the Kallada river have been completely washed away and I have reliable reports from respectable men of the locality. Some of the people are occupying, it is said, the tops of coconut trees and there are only very few bits of land here and there which are not under water. The condition of the depressed classes particularly is most miserable. They lived mostly on the sides of the river or in the paddy fields in small huts and they are now rendered absolutely homeless and they are seen on the top of a hillock at the Chittumala temple. No doubt, Government have been kind enough to allot money for the relief of these people. But till day before yesterday evening the people did not get the advantage of the money, because, although the Government sanctioned the money, the Treasury Officer did not receive instructions from the Account Office for the disbursement of the amount sanctioned.

PRESIDENT: Surely the local officers must exercise some discretion in such matters.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): We wanted to hold a public meeting there and for that purpose we sought the co-operation of the local officers. Unfortunately the Peishkar got stranded at Chengannur and so he was not in a position to help us at the meeting. We requested his Assistant to join us, but he said that he could not do so because the Tahsildar had already gone to the spot. The lives of the people there were in danger and, therefore, we ourselves collected about Rs. 400 day before yesterday and sent rice and other things. Yesterday out of the funds of the Vakils' Association,—a poor body—we subscribed Rs. 150 and sent rice and other food-stuffs. The condition of the people there is so miserable that the whole energy of the Government—not only of the Commissioner of Police and one or two officers of Government—the whole energy of Government should be directed towards the relief of these people. We do not find Mr. Govinda Menon or Mr. Khadir Pillai from Alwaye so that we may know the condition in that locality. If they had been here, they would have told us the condition of the people there. Therefore, whatever may be the rule in regard to adjournment—after all, Sir, rules are made for man and not man for rules—

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Are the rules against the adjournment? I do not think so.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I say, even if the rules are against adjournment, it is the primary duty of Government to give some relief to these people, the meeting must be adjourned and all energy directed towards relief work. On these grounds, I also strongly support the motion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I also support the motion for adjournment of the House. It is only a week's adjournment that is asked for and in view of Section—

PRESIDENT: I may tell you that a week's adjournment I am prepared to grant. (*Hear, hear.*) We need not argue out that point.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): In view of the assurance given by the President, I would only like to say that it is not only an adjournment for a week that would satisfy the requirements of the situation. It is in view of Section 112 of the Legislative Council Rules that only a week's adjournment has been asked. Section 112 says:—

"A statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the State (hereinafter called the Budget) shall be presented to the Council in the form of a statement before the beginning of the year for which it is framed and on such day as the Dewan may appoint."

So I would like to point out that, before the close of this month, the budget will have to be discussed and finally passed. But the question is whether Section 112 should be binding upon us in circumstances such as this. As my friend Mr. Hoogewerf pointed out, the whole of North Travancore is under water. I need only ask one question in this connection. Suppose this House itself was situated in Kuttanad, in Alwaye or in Parur. Could we respect this Section 112 then? So, my request is that though, to be consistent with the rules, only a week's adjournment is asked for, the President may exercise his power as President and see that the discussion of the budget itself is adjourned to some future date when it will be possible for us to see how the floods have affected the country, how the people are suffering and what all things would actually be necessary to relieve the people from distress.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Panjikaran whether his clients have been able to come to Trivandrum and give him instructions during the last seven days?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): No; they have not. So, as a matter of fact, we know that the whole of North Travancore is under water. I have also been getting some letters and messages which also show that people are suffering very much. In these circumstances, I do not wish even to have the discussion of this budget which has not been prepared for these altered circumstances. I do not mean to say that it is the fault of anybody. All that I ask is now that the altered situation has been brought about, is it not pure wisdom that

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we wait a little and see how the existing conditions are changed, before we rush on with the budget? So, I would, in addition to the motion for adjournment of the House for a week, request that, as President of the House, and as Dewan, you, Sir, see that the budget discussion itself is postponed to some other date in order that we may know the real situation to see what help we can render to the suffering people of Travancore.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I shall be failing in my duty if I do not give the House an idea of my personal knowledge in the matter. To give a picture of the place to the Council, I must say that there is a river running between the two Kalladas—Eastern Kallada belonging to the Quilon taluk and the Western Kallada belonging to the Kunnattur taluk. This river was being flooded in years past. But during the time of, I believe, Mr. A. Govinda Pillai who is here, as the Dewan Peishkar of the Quilon Division, the Government put up a bund on both sides of the river, so that the distress that was being caused to the people by the floods could be avoided. But, Sir, later on there have been breaches of bunds on both sides of the river and there were cases of some flood sometimes also. But this year's flood is quite a different thing altogether. During the time we had floods in the past, I was in Kallada. My father belongs to Kallada and I was born and brought up there. To my knowledge, those floods did not cause actual damages to the people. But this year when I heard of the flood I ran up in a car hired for the purpose, to a hill in Kallada, *i. e.*, on this side of the eastern Kallada where there is a temple, *i. e.*, Chittumala. From there I could see almost all the places of western Kallada and eastern Kallada. I had also friends with me who had accompained me to see the flood. What I saw there, I am not able to describe. I saw hundreds of houses under water and I could see only the roofs of certain big houses. Most of the houses had tumbled down under water. Then I enquired about the cattle of the place, and the information that I received was that the cattle were untied and sent out and that the people did not know where they had gone. My next question was about the *saman*—furniture and other things—belonging to the people there, and the reply I got was that they had gone to the Ashtamudi lake, the sea or something of that sort. Again, I asked about the inhabitants of the place. They told me that the people of western Kallada had gone to the surrounding hills—Sastankotta, Tevalakara, and other hills, while the people belonging to the eastern Kallada were living on the Chittumala hill. When we went there, we saw thousands of persons helpless and homeless gathering around us. They asked us to render some help. But we were not well prepared for it when we went there. I may say, Sir, that the paddy and other articles of food that they had collected for use till the next crop were all gone. The seeds and seedlings that they had for the next crop had also gone. I believe that for the next five or six years they will have nothing to live upon. Then I thought that I could go to the other side of the river, which I could not. Why? I had to go there through Kulakkada, *i. e.*, through the M. C. road. The disaster there

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[President.]

was equally terrible. When we go two miles away from Kottarakara down, the floods begin, and from there, we have to go in a boat for about ten miles in order to reach Adur. Such being the distress caused to the people of my constituency as well as to the adjacent tracts, unless I see some adequate provision made in this year's budget for relieving the distress of the people caused by the floods, I submit that I shall not be able to vote upon any item in the budget. With these observations, I support the motion before the House.

PRESIDENT: Before I put this proposition to the vote I should like to say a few words. It seems to me that the proposition has been so framed as to make it difficult for the Government to accept it in its entirety. As I have said in the course of the discussion, I am quite prepared to adjourn the House till the 17th Karkatakam. And it is quite possible to present the budget on that day for general discussion and get through the voting of grants by the 28th Karkatakam. As for the statement made that the budget presented a week hence cannot be accepted as the budget which will be applicable to the next year, I may say that this is, to some extent, true. But it seems to me that the situation is such that, in the course of one week, we will not be in a very much better position to gauge it. It is still a question, as you know, from the reports we have been receiving, of struggle for life, people being rescued and property being rescued as far as possible. The floods have not gone down, and reconstruction and restoration work and real relief work have not yet been started and could not be started. It is only after the floods subside and people are able to return to their places, that we shall be in a position to gauge fuller the extent of the damage caused, and the measures that will have to be taken to relieve distress and effect reconstruction. But I may tell the House that, in the matter of giving relief, giving the people help towards reconstruction and restoration, the Government will not hesitate to do their utmost. (*Hear, hear.*) I think it is one of the primary duties of the Government to put their hands as deep into their pockets as possible on an occasion like this, unmindful of the financial dislocation that may be caused by such a step and help the people to the best of their ability. (*Hear, hear.*) From what little Government have been doing these few days, I think the House realises that Government are anxious to do all that they can to relieve the situation. It must be remembered that this is not a time when people can move freely from one part of the country to another. Floods have interrupted communications and have prevented people from going from one part of the country to another, and even heads of departments cannot move as freely as they would wish. Indeed, in view of the fact that telegraphic communications are the only sort of communications least dislocated, the doubt arises whether it would not be wise for them to remain in a central place where they could be in touch with all their subordinates all over the country and could be guiding them. I have however already requested the Land Revenue Commissioner to move about as far as it can be advantageously done. I am also requesting the Commissioner of Police, the Chief Engineer and the other

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high touring officers to do the same. They may go as far as physically they can. But they must always keep themselves in touch with their subordinates so as to be in a position to issue instructions which could be promptly carried out. From the speeches of one or two members I gather that there is a sort of undercurrent in their minds that the Government officers are not doing their best. I must take the liberty of saying that as far as I have been able to gather from the scanty information available, local officers have been doing their very best. Mr. Hoogewerf has referred to the Circular of Government issued yesterday. It will, I hope, put heart into such of them, if any, as are halting and not sufficiently energetic. I have issued instructions to the Chief Justice to close the High Court for the whole of the next week so that the members of the bar and the client population who are interested in the affected parts may go back and see what they can do by way of saving their kith and kin and property and afford relief. I am also instructing the Director of Public Instruction to close the colleges for the next week in Trivandrum and also to issue instructions to the heads of educational institutions in Trivandrum and in all the parts of Travancore north of Trivandrum to close the schools, if necessary, for the purpose of letting the students free or giving shelter to the people who have been driven from their homes by the floods. I have also requested the Chief Justice to issue orders to the District Judges and to the Munsiffs to take similar action if necessary.

Returning to the question of the budget, Mr. Panjikaran and one or two other members have said that this budget would be valueless. I do not think so. Imagine what will happen if we do not pass the budget before the end of the year. We want all the standing sanctions before the new year commences. We have recognised expenditure under establishments and under various fixed heads to incur. These items of expenditure cannot be postponed. I fully realise that the programme as regards certain items of expenditure such as those under the Development and the Public Works Departments may have to be considerably altered. But we are meeting ordinarily four times in the year and we could meet oftener if necessary. I do not see why all the deviations that may be found necessary in the initial budget on account of such unforeseen circumstances as the present could not be placed before the Council at its meetings in the course of the year and the necessary sanction of the Council obtained for such deviations. That is the only possible course in a case like this.

The portion of the motion which, I am afraid, it would not be possible for the Government to accept is the portion which says that the meeting should continue for three days beyond the last day already fixed. Two of these days happen to be holidays on account of Hindu festivals. Even assuming that the Hindu members of the House do not want to enjoy these holidays and that they are prepared to forego them, it must be remembered that they are the last days of the official year, during which a good deal of urgent work has to be done and the heads of

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[President.]

departments and the Government would be very busy with such work. Moreover, by that time we will have sat for ten days and it would be time for the officers of Government to go out again in connection with flood relief. That would be the time when they would be in a position to get a more or less reliable idea of the relief and reconstruction that would be required. I therefore think that it would not be feasible to prolong the sitting of the Council beyond the 28th Karkatakam. I realise that it means that the non-official business of the Council suffers. The Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill which we all hoped would be taken up and gone through at this session has unfortunately to be put off. But it is not urgent in the sense in which relief of distress and saving of life and other urgent measures of administration are urgent. It seems to me that, under these circumstances, non-official work will have to wait for the next meeting of the Council. These are the remarks that I have to make in regard to the motion. The motion in the shape in which it has been placed before the House cannot, I am afraid, be accepted.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I say a word—

PRESIDENT: I do not think you are in order. I am going to put the motion to the vote.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Under the rules, the fixing of the date of the meeting of the Council is entirely left to the President.

PRESIDENT: I am willing to do all that I can to meet the wishes of the House. The House knows that I have been doing it. But, in regard to this particular request in the motion, it is not possible to meet the wishes of the House for the reasons already stated.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I request you, Sir, as Head of the Administration to start a relief fund to supplement the help which the Government have already proposed to give?

PRESIDENT: I do not catch you.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I request you, as Head of the Government to start a relief fund to supplement Government help?

PRESIDENT: I have already considered it yesterday and it seems to me that this is not the time for holding meetings and talking. This is a time for action. Local non-officials and officers must combine and co-operate and do the best they can under the circumstances.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Mr. Sankara Menon is not in order in addressing the Head of the Administration here. Such a request cannot be made in the Council to the President in his capacity as Dewan.

PRESIDENT: Very well, it does not matter. We are not very formal just now. Mr. Sankara Menon, if you would go and talk over

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the matter with me outside the House, I should like to discuss it with you and do all that is possible.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I suggest that three days may be allotted after the end of this month for the discussion of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill ?

PRESIDENT: This meeting cannot be held next year, because this is a session in itself which must close this year.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In that case, is it not possible to have a session in Chingam ?

PRESIDENT. That is a matter which I must consider before I can give you an answer. As I said I am willing to meet the wishes of the House as far as possible, but this is not a thing in which I can give an off-hand reply.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Cannot one day be allotted for the discussion of the resolutions which have been balloted ?

PRESIDENT: You forget the amount of work that we have got to do. Now, Mr. Narayana Pillai, may I ask you whether you are agreeable to putting the motion to the vote deleting the last portion which I do not think I can accept?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I shall do one thing. In view of what has already fallen from the Chair, I only move for an adjournment of the House. For how many days, I shall not say. I leave it to the discretion, as under the rules, of the President, to settle the date on which the House should meet.

PRESIDENT: There is no difficulty so far as that goes. We may meet on the 17th Karkatakam.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But, in spite of what has fallen from the President, I still request that some margin may be found for the consideration of the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill also.

PRESIDENT: Of course you know the importance of the Bill. We cannot rush it through odd intervals.. It requires three or four solid days, (*laughter*) I think, in the interests of all concerned.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): All that is necessary is that the budget will have to be presented during the current year. That may be done and a portion of the meeting may also be held in Chingam.

PRESIDENT: That is not the spirit of the rule. The budget will have to be approved before the *end* of the year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I shall try to make the voting upon the budget easy enough provided that there is an understanding that this Bill will also be discussed.

PRESIDENT: That is asking too much, I fear.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I shall persuade all my friends also to make it easy. (*Laughter.*) It is not in any

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[President.]

spirit of misgiving that I make this request. I am certainly convinced of the very deep interest the President has in the enactment of that Regulation. I am also prepared to thank you for all that you have done in connection with the catastrophe which has overtaken Central and North Travancore, and in the same spirit I request—I mean in view of what you have already done—that you may not forget what remains to be done.

PRESIDENT: What is the loss in delaying the Bill for a month or two?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Our fear is that we may not see the Bill passed before this Council is dissolved.

PRESIDENT: That is a far-off event.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): You can easily devise some means and we would have absolutely no objection to agree to anything you are prepared to do in the matter. The fear is that this Bill would outlive the life of this Council. If that were the case the whole thing would drop.

PRESIDENT: I may assure the House that everything possible will be done towards passing it through this Council.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am prepared to withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: But there must be a motion for the adjournment of the House which must be passed.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Under the Rules the President has power to fix the date of the meeting. I move for an adjournment of the House.

PRESIDENT: Then I take it that the motion is accepted by the House. We shall meet on the 17th Karkatakam when the budget will be presented.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I request that intimation of adjournment be sent to those members who are absent, by wire and by post.

PRESIDENT: We will send it by post and wire.

The House adjourned at 12-55 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on the 17th Karkatakam.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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